PITTA

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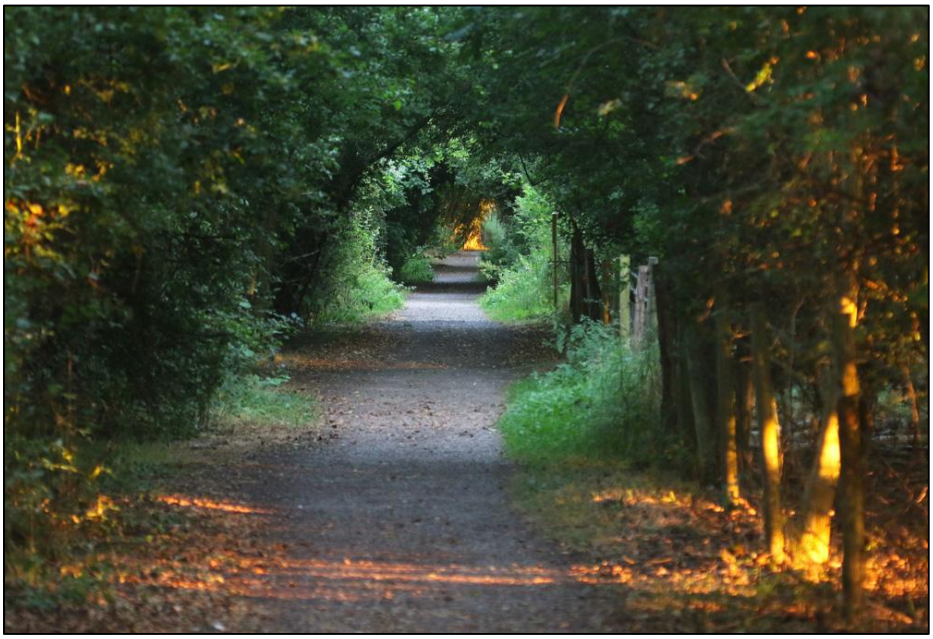
BIRDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
Trip Report: United Kingdom, August 10-29, 2024

Text & Photos: Dr G Samuel Sukumar



A forest pathway at Summer Leys

As I walked through the wooded parks in various parts of the United Kingdom, I was reminded of the famous hymn written by Carl Boberg:

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

We went as a family to visit my elder son, who resides in Glenvale Park, Wellingborough, Northampton, United Kingdom. Glenvale Park is an upcoming new residential area, wherein there is presently a lot of construction activity. There are occasional sightings of the Red Fox on the periphery which is a wooded area. Most of the roadkills on highways are of Red Foxes which get hit while chasing wild hares.

There are small waterbodies within the park with Mallard ducks, Grey-headed Swamphens, Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits, Eurasian Wren, Carrion Crow, Eurasian Magpie, Western Jackdaw, White Wagtail, European Goldfinches and Barn Swallows.

Long-tailed Tit

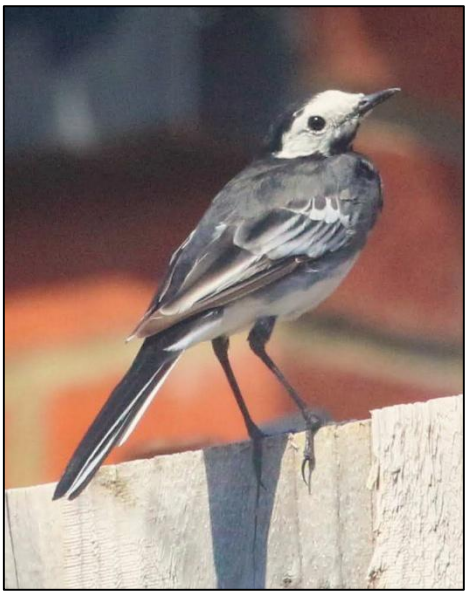
Eurasian Magpie

Western Jackdaw

The first nature reserve I visited was **Summer Leys Nature Reserve,** located at Wollaston in the Upper Nene Valley in Northamptonshire. It is owned by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, and is 8.85km from Wellingborough, covering an area of 120 acres. This is a Ramsar wetland of international importance due to the presence of wintering wildfowl. All along the periphery of the park runs a motorable road but mostly used by residents as a walking path with their dogs on leads. Visitors are to keep themselves on the pathways while the dogs are encouraged and permitted to take a dip in the lake waters. The park is clean of garbage as closed bins are separately provided to deposit the dog poop with a notice “Clean up after your dog”.

One of the bird hides

There are bird hides in all the directions of this reserve. I met some birdwatchers sitting comfortably in one of the hides observing, identifying and photographing birds.



White Wagtail

European Robin

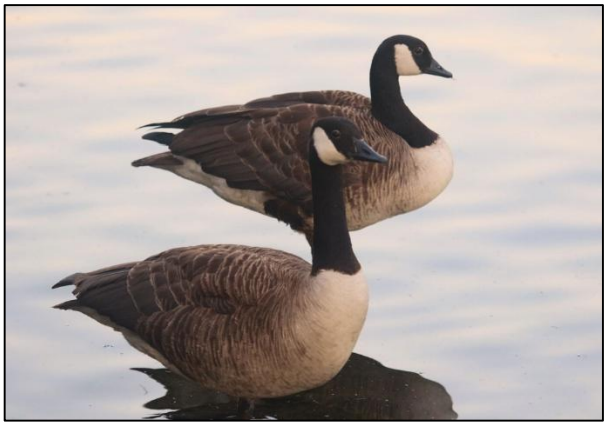
Great Tit

Apart from bird hides they have one bird feeding area. Birds seen here are Eurasian Wren, White Wagtail, Northern Lapwing, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Common Moorhen, European Robin, Great Tit, Common Wood Pigeon and Common Starlings.

Eurasian Wren

Greylag Goose

The most frequently seen bird is the Eurasian Wren, which is very shy and gives a very short glimpse. The other birds seen commonly along the coastal shores and water bodies are the different types of Gulls, Mute Swans, Canada and Greylag Geese, and an occasional Egyptian Goose.



Canada Goose

Egyptian Goose

They are so used to humans that they come close expecting a piece of bread. Despite warnings not to feed the birds, people still do feed them. During my earlier visit I photographed a Gull finish off the leftovers on a restaurant table.

Gull taking scraps from a table

The Grey Squirrel is mostly seen in botanical parks while the Red Squirrel is only seen at the Ventnor Botanic Garden, Isle of Wight. The Black Squirrel, apparently a result of interbreeding between the Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and the American Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), is rarely seen in protected parks.

Black Squirrel

The Isle of Wight is an island off the coast in the English county of Hampshire, with many resorts that are popular holiday destinations. This place is referred to by locals as Island, and can be reached by a ferry which takes your cars parked on one floor and large trucks on the lower deck. The ferry departs from the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, which is a journey of one hour by ferry. We travelled by the Red Funnel Ferries, whose ferries and speed boats are all named after birds like Red Osprey, Red Falcon etc.

One of the ferries, the Red Kestrel, belonging to Red Funnel Ferries

The Isle of Wight has mild climate, coastal scenery, and verdant landscape of farmlands. The island is designated as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve covering a land area of 380 sq.km with several attractions like the Dinosaur Isle, which displays remains of some dinosaurs, the Butterfly World with several free-flying butterflies, and the Wild Heart Animal Sanctuary, a rehabilitation centre for monkeys and owls and other wild animals which were abused in circuses around the world.

Red Squirrel

The Ventnor Botanical Garden is home to several species of plants and beautiful landscaping, a greenhouse with tropical plants like Giant Water Lily, various cactuses etc, and it is in this garden you might get to see the Red Squirrel at the feeding boxes.

Mallard male

Mallard female

Milton Keynes is a city in Buckinghamshire, about 80km north-west of London. The River Great Ouse flows on the northern side of the urban area; a tributary, the River Ouzel, meanders through its linear parks and balancing lakes. The Willen Lake is one such lake, and has several Mute Swans, Mallard ducks, Canada and Greylag Geese and various Gulls. These birds are so used to human presence that they flock around, expecting a morsel of bread.

Canada Goose with a slice of bread

Bleeding Heart Dove

Cardiff is the capital and largest city of Wales. This Welsh city is the eleventh largest in the United Kingdom. It has attractions like the Natural history Museum, the model village, and some fine windy beaches.

Herring Gull

Black-headed Gull

Black-legged Kittiwake

The bird life includes the quite confusing Herring and Black-headed Gulls of various ages and plumages, Italian Sparrow, Common Starling and Carrion Crows and Western Jackdaws. Most of the parking areas around the beaches are flocked by Gulls perched on vehicles, with some plundering garbage bins for leftovers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Garden Warbler

There is the Bute Park & Arboretum, with beautiful landscaping and flower beds; the only bird I saw there was the European Robin. But I did get to see the Grey Squirrel feeding and enjoying on a banana peel.

Eastern Grey Squirrel nibbling on banana peel

Most of the parks also have carved birds and animals on the dead tree stumps.

Some examples of carved wood art

Blenheim Palace, Oxford: It is a vast area with green lawns, lakes and rose gardens and artificial waterfalls. One of the rooms in **t**his palace was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

Carrion Crow

On the lawns you can see Greylag Geese, Mallards, Western Jackdaws and Carrion Crows enjoying themselves with bits of grass and leftover scraps from careless tourists. The surprise spotting of a bird on the lawn grass and rose garden was the beautiful Ring-necked Pheasant, or just the Pheasant; mostly the males are seen, which give you the best of photo opportunities.

Ring-necked Pheasant

The water bodies also have Mute Swans and Mallards.

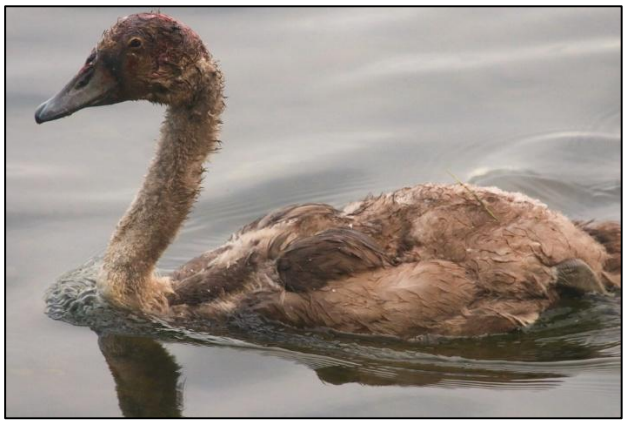
Sywell Country Park is a park ideal for birdwatching. This park was initially built as a reservoir for supply of drinking water for Higham Ferrers and Rushden, but was declared as a country park in 1985. The park covers an area of 58 hectares with a 5km long walking path around the perimeter of the park. There are bird hides and benches for resting provided along the path. This is an ideal place for watching the Grey Heron; in fact the entrance depicts a Grey Heron as a mascot.

The Grey Heron mascot at Sywell Country Park entrance

Dunnock

Birds seen here were Mute Swans with cygnets, Grey Heron, Common Wood Pigeons, European Goldfinches, Eurasian Wren, Common Blackbird, and Dunnock.

Mute Swan adult



Mute Swan cygnet

We also saw Canada and Greylag Geese, Mallard, Eurasian Coot, Grey-headed Swamphen, and Black-headed Gull, along with some butterflies like the Gatekeeper and the Speckled Wood.

Gatekeeper

Speckled Wood

Cabbage White

Irchester Country Park was a former ironstone quarry now developed into a park with a network of long and short trails through its 83 hectares of mixed woodland. The mining company planted pine trees but later added many native broadleaf trees and shrubs like Oak, Alder (whose flowers are used to make a green dye), Ash, Hazel and Pivot. The park is now maintained by the Northamptonshire County Council since 1971.

European Hare

The park is home to the Quarryman's Rest Café, Jungle Parc high rope activity area and the Irchester Narrow Gauge Railway Museum. The park hosts the Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Grey Squirrel, Hedgehogs, European Hares, Common Wood Pigeon etc.

Common Wood Pigeon

Garden Spider

Berries and seeds as food for birds:
Rowan (red berries), Viburnum (red berries), Blackberry, Blueberry, European Black Elderberry, etc are various summer berries, and the Thistle's fluffy seeds are a source of food for the birds.

Rowan Tree Berry

Blackberry sp

Viburnum

European Black Elderberry

English Hawthorn

Dog-rose

European Goldfinch male with fluffy seed of Spear Thistle

Perforate St John's-wort

European Goldfinch female

Some flowers photographed during the trip:

Purple Loosestrife

Teasel sp (*Genus Dipsacus*)

I will end with the poem "**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**" by Robert Frost:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

The list of birds seen during the trip:

BIRDS					
Sl No	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**	**Sl No**	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**
1	Eurasian/Common Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	24	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*
2	Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	25	Western Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*
3	Common Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	26	Rook	*Corvus frugilegus*
4	Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	27	Carrion Crow	*Corvus corone*
5	European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	28	Egyptian Goose	*Alopochen aegyptiaca*
6	Common Gull	*Larus canus*	29	Eurasian Magpie	*Pica pica*
7	Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	30	Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra*
8	Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	31	European Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*
9	Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	32	Common Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus*
10	Pink-footed Goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	33	Blue Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*
11	Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	34	Laughing Dove	*Spilopelia senegalensis*
12	Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*	35	Garden Warbler	*Sylvia borin*
13	Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	36	Eurasian Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*
14	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	37	Great Tit	*Parus major*
15	Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	38	Long-tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*
16	Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	39	Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*
17	Nrthern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	40	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*
18	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	41	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
19	European Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	42	Common (aka European) Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
20	Mandarin Duck	*Aix galericulata*	43	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*
21	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	44	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
22	White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	45	Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*
23	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	46	Grey-headed Swamphen	*Porphyrio poliocephalus*

Other taxa recorded during the trip:

FLORA					
Sl No	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**	**Sl No**	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**
1	Rowan Tree (aka Mountain Ash)	*Sorbus rosamari*	7	English Hawthorn (aka Midland Hawthorn/Woodland Hawthorn/Mayflower)	Crataegus laevigata
2	Guelder-rose	*Viburnum opulus*			
3	Blackberry	*Genus Rubus*			
4	New Jersey Blueberry	*Vaccinium caesariense*	8	European Black Elderberry	*Sambucus nigra*
5	Field Fleawort	*Tephroseris integrifolia*	9	Spear Thistle (Aka Bull Thistle)	*Cirsium vulgare*
6	Purple Loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	10	Dog Rose	*Rosa canina*

FAUNA			BUTTERFLIES & SPIDERS		
Sl No	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**	**Sl No**	**Species Name**	**Scientific Name**
1	Black Squirrel (Melanistic subspecies of Eastern Grey Squirrel)	*Sciurus carolinensis*	1	Gatekeeper	*Pyronia tithonus*
2	Eurasian Red Squirrel	*Sciurus vulgaris*	2	Speckled Wood	*Pararge aegeria*
3	Eastern Grey Squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*	3	Cabbage White	*Pieris rapae*
4	European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	4	European Garden Spider	*Araneus diadematus*
5	European (aka Brown) Hare	*Lepus europaeus*			

Some other photographs taken during the trip:

Lesser Black-backed Gull adult

Lesser Black-backed Gull immature

Common Blackbird

Emerald Dove

Common Starling adult

Common Starling juvenile

Blue Tit

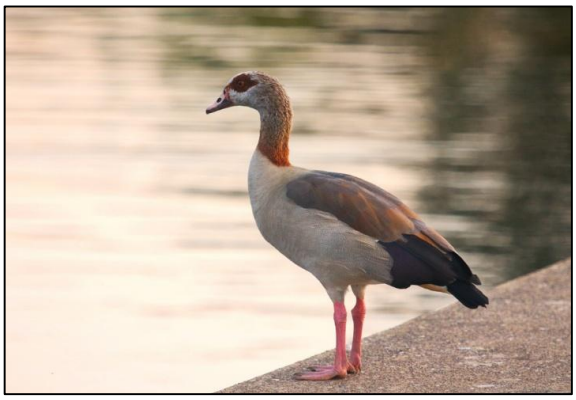
Common Chaffinch

Carved Wood Art

Eurasian Coot

Mandarin Duck male

Mandarin Duck female



Egyptian Goose

Mute Swan flock

Rook

Red Squirrel

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Trip Report: Edulabad Lake, January 19, 2025

Text: Gurukumar KR; Photos: Dr G Samuel Sukumar

White-browed Wagtail

The morning of January 19, 2025, dawned mild and misty as our convoy of eager birders set out from NGRI Metro Station just after 6:30AM. The fog lifted gently from the fields, revealing a landscape bathed in golden winter light as we made our way toward Edulabad Lake.

White-throated Kingfisher

Chestnut-tailed Starling

Our first pause came at a small water culvert, where two bold White-throated Kingfishers stood sentinel on overhead perches, their turquoise wings catching the sun. Soon came a bustling flock of Chestnut-tailed Starlings darting through the tree canopy, noisily churring and whistling. The nearby reeds trembled with the comical antics of White-breasted Waterhens, their stubby tails bobbing as they scurried for cover. Further out in the damp fields, Egrets and Ibises (mostly Cattle Egrets and a few elegant Black-headed Ibises) stalked their breakfast, methodically probing the soft earth for grubs as the morning warmth stirred the insects to life.

Laughing Dove

Spot-billed Duck

Continuing onward, we reached Edulabad Lake. The crunch of gravel beneath our boots marked our passage along the newly constructed walkway, its elevated planks offering an unnatural but welcome vantage over the shimmering waters. The well-maintained bund stood in stark contrast to the degraded shoreline vegetation. Human activity had clearly taken its toll along the near edges, pushing most of the waterbirds – Painted Storks, Black-winged Stilts, and drifting parties of Spot-billed Ducks – to the far side of the lake, where the water met undisturbed fields. Here, apart from the occasional farmer moving through his crops, the birds fed and preened in relative peace.

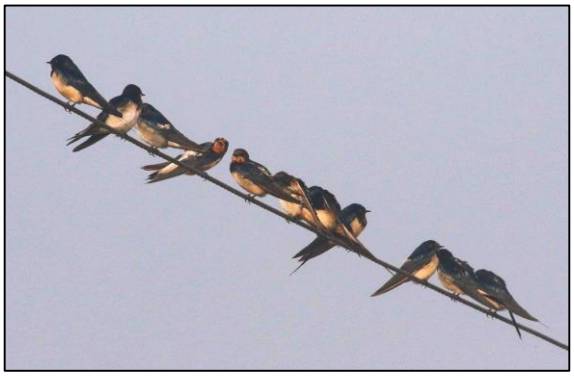
Grey Heron

Brahminy Starling

With the Asian Waterbird Census underway, our group split time between admiring the avian spectacle and carefully counting individuals, from the squat Little Grebes to the Terns dipping over the water's surface. A flash of emerald announced the arrival of Asian Green Bee-eaters, their delicate forms perched on bare branches like living jewels. Their soft trills mingled with the metallic *tink-tink-tink* of a Coppersmith Barbet hidden in the canopy, while a pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets screeched overhead in a blur of green and red.

Asian Green Bee-eater

Near the water's edge, a Purple Heron froze mid-step, its sinuous neck coiled like a spring, waiting to ambush unsuspecting prey. The lake's surface rippled as a Little Grebe popped up like a cork, its ruby eye gleaming, while nearby, a Bronze-winged Jacana picked its way delicately across floating vegetation, its impossibly long toes distributing its weight like nature's own snowshoes. The air above the water danced with Wire-tailed Swallows, their streaming tail feathers slicing through the morning air as they pursued invisible insects. Barn Swallows were also around in good numbers.



Barn Swallow

From the scrubland came the sweet, rambling song of an Oriental Magpie Robin, its tail cocked proudly as it proclaimed its territory. A shiver of movement in the bushes revealed a pair of shy Indian Robins, while overhead a Brahminy Kite carved slow circles in the sky, its white head gleaming like a beacon.

Brahminy Kite

Blyth's Reed Warbler

As the sun climbed higher, the reed beds came alive with the restless movements of warblers – the subtle, streaked forms of Blyth's Reed Warblers flitted through the dense vegetation, their melodious warbles contrasting with the sharp *zit-zit* calls of Plain Prinias. A flash of yellow betrayed the presence of a Purple Sunbird, the male's iridescent throat shimmering between amethyst and ebony as it sipped nectar from crimson blossoms.

Plain Prinia

Baya Weaver

Near the water's edge, a family of Baya Weavers worked feverishly on their pendulum nests, their delicate yellow forms bobbing and weaving as they stitched their intricate homes. The males paused occasionally to flutter their wings and sing, hoping to attract mates to their carefully crafted chambers.

The morning's symphony reached its crescendo as a pair of Red-wattled Lapwings took to the air, their plaintive *did-he-do-it* calls ringing out in alarm. Their flashing black-and-white wings drew our eyes skyward, where a loose formation of Glossy Ibis passed overhead, their curved bills and iridescent plumage glowing bronze in the sunlight.

Lemon Pansy

Plain Tiger

A good number of butterflies were also seen: Lemon Pansy, Plain Tiger, Tawny Coster and Zebra Blue.

Tawny Coster

Zebra Blue

White-browed Bulbul

Another special bird was the Grey-bellied Cuckoo, heard more often than seen.

Grey-bellied Cuckoo

The lake had revealed its treasures generously, offering us glimpses into the secret lives of its feathered denizens. As we were wrapping up, Edulabad's troubled past was not forgotten. Just a few years ago, the lake had made headlines for all the wrong reasons – industrial runoff choking its waters with toxic froth. While the situation has improved – no foam was visible this morning – remnants of neglect lingered in the form of plastic debris along the banks and the scarred, fragmented edges of what was once a healthier wetland.

Still, the morning's tally of 64 species proved the lake's resilience and served as a hopeful reminder: with continued care, Edulabad could fully reclaim its place as a thriving haven both for the birds and for those who cherish them. The challenge now lies in balancing access with preservation – ensuring that the bunds and pathways meant to welcome visitors don't further erode the habitats that make this place so special.

The list of birds seen during the trip:

Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name
1	Indian Spot-billed Duck	*Anas poecilorhyncha*	21	Indian Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
2	Indian Peafowl	*Pavo cristatus*	22	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*
3	Grey Francolin	*Ortygornis pondicerianus*	23	Red-naped Ibis	*Pseudibis papillosa*
4	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	*Columba livia*	24	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*
5	Spotted Dove	*Spilopelia chinensis*	25	Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*
6	Laughing Dove	*Spilopelia senegalensis*	26	Great Egret	*Ardea alba*
7	Southern Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	27	Medium Egret	*Ardea intermedia*
8	Asian Koel	*Eudynamys scolopaceus*	28	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*
9	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	*Cacomantis passerinus*	29	Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*
10	Asian Palm Swift	*Cypsiurus balasiensis*	30	Shikra	*Accipiter badius*
11	Grey-headed Swamphen	*Porphyrio poliocephalus*	31	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*
12	White-breasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*	32	Asian Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*
13	Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	33	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*
14	Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	34	Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*
15	River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	35	Coppersmith Barbet	*Psilopogon haemacephalus*
16	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	36	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*
17	Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*	37	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*
18	Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	38	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*
19	Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	39	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*
20	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	40	Ashy Prinia	*Prinia socialis*

Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name
41	Plain Prinia	*Prinia inornata*	53	Indian Robin	*Saxicoloides fulicatus*
42	Blyth's Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	54	Oriental Magpie Robin	*Copsychus saularis*
43	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	55	Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*
44	Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	56	Purple-rumped Sunbird	*Leptocoma zeylonica*
45	White-browed Bulbul	*Pycnonotus luteolus*	57	Purple Sunbird	*Cinnyris asiaticus*
46	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	58	Baya Weaver	*Ploceus philippinus*
47	Lesser Whitethroat	*Curruca curruca*	59	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
48	Indian White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*	60	White-browed Wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*
49	Yellow-billed Babbler	*Turdoides affinis*	61	Black-headed Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*
50	Indian Pied Starling	*Gracupica contra*	62	Brahminy Starling	*Sturnia pagodarum*
51	Chestnut-tailed Starling	*Sturnia malabarica*	63	Brahminy Kite	*Haliastur indus*
52	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	64	Indian Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*

Some other photographs taken during the trip:

Datura sp

Passion Flower

Carpenter Bee on Tanner's Cassia

Rhesus Macaque

Indian Pond Heron

Barn Swallow

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Bird of the Month

Text and Photos: Umesh Mani

Barred Buttonquail (*Turnix suscitator*)

Barred Buttonquail male (L) and female (R) (Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, February 5, 2019)

Order:	Charadriiformes
Family:	Turnicidae
Genus:	*Turnix*
Species:	*T. suscitator*
Size:	15 cm
IUCN Status:	Least Concern

Description & distribution: The Barred Buttonquail is a typical small buttonquail found across India up to an elevation of about 2500m in the Himalayas. It is rufous brown on the upperparts, and rusty and buff on the underparts. Chin, throat and breast show close black barring, while in the female, the throat and centre of breast is black. The female is also larger and more richly coloured. There are some clear diagnostic features: bill and legs are blue-grey, and eyes are yellowish-white, while in flight, it also shows pale buff shoulder patches on the wings. The lack of a hind toe sets apart the buttonquails from the true quails. Besides India, the Barred Buttonquail is also found in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, and most of South-east Asia.

Sixteen sub-species are recognized, of which the nominate, *T. s. suscitator*, is seen in parts of Sumatra, Java and Bali. The sub-species seen in India are *T. s. plumbipes*, seen in North-east India, *T. s. bengalensis*, seen in Central and South-west Bengal, and *T. s. taigoor*, seen in the rest of India.

Habitat & behaviour: The Barred Buttonquail is usually seen in pairs in most habitats except dense forest and desert, but more often in scrub jungle, light deciduous forest, grassland and farmlands. Like most quails and buttonquails, they move about silently between the bushes or grass while foraging and, when flushed, can take off with a fast whirring flight. The call is a motorcycle-like *drr-r-r-r-r*, besides a loud *hoon hoon hoon*.

Nesting: The Barred Buttonquail breeds almost around the year, with some local variations. Its nest is usually a grass-lined scrape or shallow depression in the ground, in the scrub jungle or farmland, and often covered by overhanging grass. The usual clutch consists of 3-4 greyish white eggs with profuse reddish-brown or blackish purple speckling. Courtship is initiated by the female, who also fights with other females for mating rights with a male and builds the ground nest. She is polyandrous, moving on after egg-laying to look for another mate. Incubation and rearing duties are performed by the male. Chicks are precocious and able to run as soon as they are hatched.

Local name: The Barred Buttonquail is known as *'Gulu', 'Gundra'* or *'Gundulu'* in Hindi, 'Bateri' in Punjabi, 'Kali chhati bil bater' or 'Horn bater' in Gujarati, 'Inruibuma' in Naga and *'Kadai'* in Tamil (a name shared with several other quails and buttonquails). Some of the Southern languages also have separate names for the male and female: they are called, respectively, *'Ankadij'* and *'Kurung kadik'* in Tamil and *'Kalada'* and *'Pured'* in Telugu.

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